

MED. INTEL.

# MALDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Annual Report

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

(JOHN F. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.)

FOR

1941

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA :  
H. F. LUCAS & Co., 151, NORTH ROAD.



LONDON ROAD,  
CHELMSFORD.

1st July, 1942.

**To the Chairman and Members of Maldon Rural District  
Council.**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your district during the year 1941.

In accordance with the Circular from the Ministry of Health the report has been further curtailed.

Owing to the abnormal conditions both before and since the outbreak of war, a great amount of time has had to be given to other than normal public health activities.

In spite of the considerable movement of population, no increase in the incidence of infectious disease occurred, and the general health of the community was maintained.

To my colleagues I am much indebted for valuable assistance in the preparation of this report.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I beg to thank the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. MACDONALD

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

<i>Clerk to the Rural District Council</i>	..	A. W. Freeman, Solicitor.
<i>Deputy Clerk</i>	..	L. H. Hiscott.
<i>Assistant Clerk</i>	..	H. J. Freeman, Solicitor.
<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	..	John F. Macdonald, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H., who also acts in this capacity for the Rural Districts of Chelmsford and Rochford.
<i>Clerk to Medical Officer of Health</i>	..	M. C. Barton (in H.M. Forces from September, 1939). Mrs. M. Marshall.
<i>Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>		W. Almond, A.R.San.I., who also acts as Water Engineer.
<i>Second Sanitary Inspector</i>	..	M. H. McIntosh, Cert.- S.I.B., Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
<i>Assistant Surveyor</i>	..	A. G. E. Peters.

REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
For the Year 1941

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

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**Statistics.**

Area (in acres) ..	78,507 (land and inland water-ways).
Registrar-General's estimate of Civilian Population, mid 1941 ..	omitted.
Rateable Value on 1st April, 1941 ..	£77,111
The sum represented by a penny rate year ending 31st March, 1942 ..	£281 5s. 11d.

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**Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.**

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population, mid 1941	14.6
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	24.2
*Death Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population	14.7

The number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 1.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

		Rate per 1,000 total Deaths. (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Maternal causes	Nil	Nil

Deaths Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births .. .. ..	47.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. ..	49
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „ ..	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. ..	24
„ „ Measles (all ages) .. .. ..	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. ..	3
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. .. ..	Nil

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES  
DURING THE YEAR, 1941.

	Rate per 1,000 civilian population.		Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 registered live births.
	Live Births.	Deaths from all causes.	
England and Wales ..	14.2	12.9	59
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	14.7	14.9	71
148 Smaller Towns Resident Population of from 25,000 to 50,000 (1931 Census) ..	16.4	13.0	56
Maldon Rural District	14.6	14.7*	47.8

\*In order to render this figure comparable with the death rate for the Country as a whole, it must be multiplied by the "Comparability Factor," or as it is now styled the "Areal Comparability Factor (A.C.F.)" 0.77, which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of sex and age components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 11.3 as compared with 14.2 for the Country as a whole.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE  
AREA

**Laboratory Facilities.** Additional facilities to supplement those already available have been provided by the Establishment of Emergency Public Health Laboratories, under the direction of the Medical Research Council.

**Ambulance Facilities.** These meet the needs of the district, and if they should be overworked they can now be augmented by arrangement with vehicles of the Emergency Medical Services.

**Nursing in the Home.** Local Nursing Associations' arrangements remain the same ; one independent nurse has gone.

**Registered Nursing Homes.** There are two in the district.

**Treatment Centres and Clinics ; Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.** Remain the same as last year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

**Water Supply.** During 1941 no material change has taken place in the water supply.

**Drainage and Sewerage ; Rivers and Streams ; Closet Accommodation.** No material change has taken place.

### **Scavenging and Salvage.**

Following the breakdown of McLeans Scavenging contract at the end of 1940, the Council decided to purchase a lorry, but owing to the extreme shortage of vehicles it was not until August one could be found.

This vehicle with driver and mate carries out house to house collections in 28 parishes and keeps the 26 paper depots supplied with sacks and cleared of their collections of paper.

Scavenging arrangements in Southminster and Tollesbury remain the same.

In addition to the actual collection of the material, considerable time must be spent on grading and separating and preparing for sale, consequently a considerable time elapses between visits.

The collection of paper is carried out by various organisations in the parishes and up to the end of the year, 107 tons had been sent to the Mills.

Owing to shortage of labour and transport and a very poor market, there is about 60 tons of scrap metal in the district, but it is hoped to obtain assistance from the Ministry of Works and Buildings in the near future.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following table gives details of the work carried out. The work was considerably curtailed as a result of shortage of staff and the time taken up by salvage work.

Nature	Inspections		Notices		
	Number	Informal	Formal	Complied with	Outstanding at end of year
Infectious Diseases Inquiries ..	120	..	..	..	..
Disinfection ..	22	..	..	..	..
Ordinary Nuisances ..	53	23	..	23	4
Dwelling—Structural Defects	115	16	..	25	4
Housing—Overcrowding Cases	2	1	..	1	..
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	340	69	1	90	13
Bakehouses ..	26	4	..	4	..
Slaughterhouses ..	12	1	..	1	..
Privies and Pail Closets ..	18	7	..	27	..
Water Closets ..	12	5	..	4	1
Defective Yard Paving ..	4	1	..	1	..
Drainage ..	96	52	..	59	9
Water Supply ..	49	7	..	6	1
Animals improperly kept ..	..	..	..	..	..
Offensive Accumulations ..	72	17	..	26	3
Other Nuisances ..	56	4	..	5	..
Urinals ..	7	..	..	..	..
Schools ..	56	4	..	4	..
Food Shops ..	150	6	..	6	..
Appointments and Interviews ..	427	..	..	..	..
Factories and Workshops ..	39	4	..	4	..
Rats and Mice ..	120	20	..	20	..
Miscellaneous Inspections ..	175	..	..	..	..
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ..	12	1	..	1	..
Ice Cream Vendors ..	..	..	..	..	..
Shops ..	24	..	..	..	..
Dilapidated Buildings ..	16	..	..	..	..
Salvage ..	1250	..	..	..	..
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3273</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>35</b>

## FACTORIES

**I.—INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health.  
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ..	15	1	—
Factories without mechanical power ..	24	3	—
Total	39	4	—

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	(1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
		Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	.. ..	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	.. ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	.. ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	{ insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —
Other Offences	.. ..	— (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921. and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).	— —	— —	— —
Total		4	4	—	—

**Smoke Abatement ; Swimming Baths and Pools ; Eradication of Bed Bugs ; Knackers' Yards.** No alteration or action affecting these matters took place during the year.

**Camping Sites.** No licence to use land as camping sites were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year.

**Bakehouses.** Remain the same.

**Schools.**

## HOUSING

### Statistics for the Year, 1941.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(i) By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(ii) By other bodies and persons	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

I. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	..	..	296
(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	..	59

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices* :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .. 56

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year* : —

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
  - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. —
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit by owners after service of formal notices .. —
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
  - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. —
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by owners after service of formal notices .. —
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
  - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. —
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .. —
  - (a) Undertakings to repair accepted under Sections 11 and 13 and work subsequently completed .. —
  - (b) Undertakings to repair accepted .. .. —
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .. ..	6
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..	6
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	52
(iv) Equivalent number of persons dwelling therein	45
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .. ..	I
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .. ..	4
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	25
(iii) Equivalent number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .. ..	18

Observation is kept of the records of border line cases so that when they become overcrowded due to the increasing ages of the inmates they are reported to the Public Health Committee.

**Clearance Areas.** No further work of demolition in respect of the 25 houses comprising the six Clearance Areas confirmed by the Ministry of Health in 1939.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Milk Supply.

There are 192 cowkeepers in the district, 109 are licensed to produce accredited milk. Two supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised Milk and one to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk were granted during the year.

Below is a summary of notices served and work done in relation to improvements to Cowsheds and Dairies.

#### NUMBER OF NOTICES.

Outstanding at the end of 1940.	Informal.	Formal.	Completed.	Outstanding at the end of 1941.
38	69	1	95	13

In addition during the year four new dairies were built.

### Meat and Other Foods.

Owing to the Ministry of Food Control and Centralizing of Slaughtering there are now no slaughterhouses in the district. There is one licensed Knacker's Yard at Purleigh. 186 visits have been made to the butchers' shops, vans and food shops.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 452 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, exclusive of Tuberculosis, but including Measles and Whooping Cough.

The supply of diphtheria anti-toxin to medical practitioners is still available.

The following tables show the incidence of infectious diseases during the year.

With the exception of an epidemic of measles, the district was comparatively free of infectious diseases.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR  
(EXCLUSIVE OF TUBERCULOSIS)**

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Age Groups										Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths	
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1											1	2	
Scarlet Fever	4						1	3					3	1
Diphtheria	4		1					1	1	1			4	
Measles	359	6	9	18	27	26	162	84	11	10	4	2	1	1
Poliomyelitis	1					1							1	
Pneumonia	9		1		1			2		1	2	2		12
Erysipelas	2										1	1		
Whooping Cough	72	3	4	4	3	11	32	13	2					3
Total	452	9	15	22	30	39	195	103	12	14	4	6	3	11
														17*

\*This figure includes inward deaths. (1 Scarlet Fever and 1 Whooping Cough).

**Immunisation.** During the year 639 children between 1-15 years were immunised against Diphtheria, but it is hoped that more parents will take advantage of the facilities provided.

The percentage of children immunised at the end of 1941 was :—

Aged 1-15 = 35.6%

Aged 1-5 = 24.8%

Aged 5-15 = 40.4%

**TUBERCULOSIS.  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1941.**

Age Periods.	* New Cases.				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
20-25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

\*Not including cases of Tuberculosis removed into the district during the year, which had been previously notified elsewhere.

TABLE SHOWING LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES  
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1941.

Parish.	Poliomyelitis	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Totals
Althorne					5		I				6
Asheldham										I	I
Bradwell											II
Braxted, Great					3						3
Braxted, Little					4						4
Cold Norton				3	17		I			I	22
Dengie											
Fambridge, N.					10						10
Goldhanger				I	30	21	I				53
Hazeleigh						2					2
Langford					21	7	I				30
Latchingdon				I	17	I					19
Mayland					3	4					7
Mundon					9				I		10
Purleigh				I	51	3	I				56
Southminster	I				109	10	2		I		123
Steeple					I	2					3
St. Lawrence											
Stow Maries					2				I		3
Tillingham									2		2
Tollesbury					6	I					7
Tolleshunt D'Arcy					7	2					9
Tolleshunt Knights					5	4	2				6
Tolleshunt Major				I	22	I					6
Totham, Great					4	I					23
Totham, Little					3						5
Ulting					24					I	3
Wickham Bishops	I				2			I		I	26
Woodham Mortimer									I		4
Woodham Walter					4	2			I	I	7
<b>Totals</b>	I	I	4	4	359	72	9	2	5	4	461









